city, town

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

St. Charles

For NPS use only received

Invento	entory—Nomination Form date entered		e entered	
	is in How to Complete N			A Company
1. Nam				
nistoric Wolf	f-Ruebeling House			
ind/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Highway 94			not for publication
city, town Def:	iance	_x vicinity of		
state Miss	souri cod	e 029 county	St. Charles	code 183
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership _x public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible ves: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation work other: Vacant
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
iame Cons	sarvation Commission	n. Missouri Departme	ant of Consomition	
treet & number	2901 North Ten Mi	•	m m wonservarion	
ity, town Je	efferson City	vicinity of	state	Missouri 65101
		al Description)n	MISSOUT BITTE
		-		
ourthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Offic.	e of the Recorder of	Deeds, St. Charles	County Administrati Building
treet & number	118 North Second	Street		
ity, town St.	Charles		state	Missouri 63301
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing S	Surveys	
itle I) Histo	oric Sites of St. C	harles Co. has this pro	perty been determined eli-	gible?yes x no
		daries Co and plo		
iate 1976	5		rederal stat	county x local
iepository for su	- Str Cust.	les County Historica	l Society Archives	
	101 Sout	h Main Street	•	

state

Missouri 63301

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	<u>X</u> deteriorated	unaltered	<u>X</u> original s	ite
good	ruins	_x_ altered	moved	date
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wolf-Ruebeling House of circa 1857-1859 is a brick I-house sited atop a rise overlooking Highway 94, at a distance of approximately seventy-five feet from the Missouri River bluffs of southeastern St. Charles County.

The Wolf-Ruebeling House exemplifies a vernacular building type which evolved in the lower Missouri River valley from classical residential design traditions. Referencing high style Federal and Greek Revival house types in which symmetrical compositions were formed around single, dominant design features central to both plan and elevation, the Wolf-Ruebeling House is laid out on a central hall plan, with four rooms of equal size. (15' \times .16') located to either side of the first and second floor hallways; the fenestration of the primary elevation reflects the bilateral symmetry of the plan.

The Wolf-Ruebeling House is constructed of red brick laid in common bond on a coursed, rock-faced stone foundation. Flues rise at either side of the windows of the side elevations to rebuilt chimneys above the gable roof. Three of the flues are worked into the masonry fabric; the fourth, which projects from the northern elevation, was probably added when the present furnace was installed. I

Except at the rear elevation, the fenestration is symmetrical, with three bays at the primary elevation and one bay per side elevation. The fenestration of the rear elevation is symmetrical at the upper story, but asymmetrical at the first story. This resulted from the placement of the rear hall door off-axis in order to accommodate a stairway to the cellar and the inclusion of a second doorway which opened from the east parlor into an early but non-original frame addition that was recently demolished. In all probability, the window next to this door was moved over, toward the side elevation, when the addition was built and the parlor door was added to provide a second means of ingress and egress; there is no structural evidence to support or refute this, however.

Typical of Missouri-German construction, the windows are segmentally arched with plain wooden tympana and sills. The ground floor window openings are taller than the second floor windows, although six-over-six light sash were used throughout the first and second floors. The reduction in height of the windows from the first to the second story, an effect created by reducing the size of the panes rather than the number of panes per opening, contributes to the design's inherent sense of visual stability. Due to their smaller size, the attic windows contained four-over-four light sash; the basement windows were set in pivoting sash.

All of the exterior doors are paneled, single leaves. None are in situ, but all are stored in the house. The front door is flanked by pilastered door posts and surrounded by a transom and sidelights.

The walls and ceilings of the first floor rooms are plastered, except for the

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		iandscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	c. 1857-59	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wolf-Ruebeling House is significant according to National Register criteria A and C to wit: it is associated with German settlement of the Missouri River valley and the significant contributions these German immigrant settlements made to the broad patterns of American history; it is the last vestige of the German community of Hamburg, the fate of which was sealed in 1940 by War Department condemnation for construction of a TNT and DNT plant; and it represents a distinct type of vernacular residence which, ubiquitous to German immigrant settlements in the rural areas of the lower Missouri River valley, constitutes a regional adaption of classical design and building traditions in residential architecture. The Wolf-Ruebeling House is significant in the areas of architecture and exploration/settlement for the above enumerated reasons.

The publication in 1824 and 1835 of Gottfried Duden's idealized accounts of the Missouri River valley and their widespread distribution in Germany precipitated the first of successive waves of immigrants seeking to better their lot in Missouri's "Rhineland" in 1831. By the 1840's and 1850's, social, economic and political unrest in Germany fueled emigration to the Missouri River valley as persons desiring to maintain 101d World traditions sought to transplant. German culture in the United States. 1

The community of Hamburg was platted on the Missouri River bluffs in 1840 by Bavarian immigrants, amid settlements of Anglo-American slaveholders who emigrated from the Upper South after the War of 1812. A steamboat landing was established at Hamburg perhaps by the early 1840's and it quickly supplanted a landing that had been established by 1833 at the mouth of the Femme Osage Creek, about one-half mile south of the Hamburg townsite. Hamburg had developed as a major trading center in southeastern St. Charles County by the late 1840's; it contained a post office, a cabinetmaker's shop, a general store and several houses by this date.

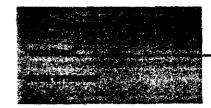
An increase in property valuation appearing in county tax dockets from 1857 and 1859 suggests that Lorenz Wolf, a Bavarian immigrant, built the Wolf-Ruebeling House by 1859. Because Wolf's residency was brief, dating only from 1857 to 1862, county records shed little light on Wolf's circumstances and the house's construction. According to deed books, Wolf purchased a strip of land lying to the south of Hamburg's few commercial buildings from one of the original settlers and fellow Bavarian, William Koenig, on May 4, 1857. He probably began construction of the house shortly thereafter. Wolf resided there with his wife, Maria Anna Muschany, and their two infant daughters, Mary and Julia, and a young Prussian wagonmaker, Paul Bruerro.

Because of the high costs involved shipping brick from brickyards in nearby cities or manufacturing it on site, brick houses constructed in rural areas during the mid-1800's, such as the Wolf-Ruebeling House, were regarded as

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smaller structures belonging to Ruebeling fronted on both sides of the road near the south lot line of his property. The structures on the south side of the road were used as a cobbler's shop and for stock; the use to which the building on the north side of the road was put is not known. 15

Apparently in stages after 1905, Ruebeling built a one story frame addition at the rear of the house which contained a kitchen, a dining room, a porch and a bathroom (demolished). Pieced-together structural members and the agglutinate character of the roof suggested that the portion used as the kitchen was built first, the dining room with shed roofed porch was added on to the kitchen and, at a later date, a portion of the porch was closed in for a bathroom.

The house was sold to Adam Schneider c. 1915-25, after the deaths of Henry and Charlotte Ruebeling. It was subsequently sold to George Wilson, a St. Louis attorney, who used it as a weekend and vacation retreat possibly as late as 1940. 16

During the Winter of 1940-1941, the War Department began condemnation proceedings on property in the Hamburg vicinity for the construction of an ordnance plant, about one mile northeast of the Wolf-Ruebeling House. The Weldon Spring site was selected for the production of TNT and DNT by the Federal government, which served as an arsenal for France and England before the declaration war on Germany in 1941, as it contained the desired amount of virtually unimproved land close to a major metropolitan area.

Employees of the munitions plant lived in the Wolf-Ruebeling House and other Hamburg properties during the plant's operation. After the war, the government surplused 15,000 acres of their approximately 18,000 acres. August A. Busch, Jr., president of Anheuser-Busch Brewery, made a gift of 7,000 acres to the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri acquired 8,000 acres, including Hamburg. The University rented Hamburg properties to employees and non-employees until about 1951, at which time non-university employees were required to vacate. About a year later, non-university employees were allowed to return.

In 1957, the War Department transferred the munitions plant to the Atomic Energy Commission for processing uranium and thorium for atomic weapons. Ten years later, the plant was returned to the Army for producing Agent Orange; however, the buildings had became radioactive from a decade of processing uranium at triple the plant's capacity and, consequently, the production of Agent Orange was scrubbed.

In 1974, the University surplused 700 acres. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the St. Louis Zoological Park considered joint acquisition of the University tract for multipurpose recreation use, however, only the Department of Conservation had sufficient capital to acquire the Weldon Spring Tract; it did so in 1978.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

Chief of Registration

10. (Geographical Data		
Acreage of Quadrangle JTM Refere	nominated property less than 1 acre name "Weldon Spring, MO"	_	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
1 15 Zone	6 9 17 3 16 10 4 12 8 12 2 16 15 Northing	B Zone Eastin	g Northing
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The Wolf	undary description and justification -Ruebeling House is contained with the sides of the so		
ist ali st	ates and counties for properties overlap	ping state or county b	code
tate	code	county	code
11. 1	Form Prepared By		
ame/title rganizatio			ovember 4, 1982
reet & nu	mber P.O. Box 176	telepnone	(314) 751–4096
ty or towr			ssouri 65102
2. 3	State Historic Prese	rvation Offi	cer Certification
he evaluat	ted significance of this property within the sta	te is: local	
65), I here ecording t	gnated State Historic Preservation Officer for by nominate this property for inclusion in the o the criteria and procedures set forth by the ric Preservation Officer signature	the National Historic Pres National Register and cer	
	Director, Department of Natural H		data
	State Historic Preservation Office use only by certify that this property is included in the		date
			date
Keeper	of the National Register		
Attest:	÷		date

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2) Missouri Historic Sites Survey
1982
Department of Natural State Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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lower portion of the eastern room, which is finished in a beaded pine wainscot. Beaded tongue and groove paneling was used in the hallways and on the ceilings of the second floor rooms.

Pedimented architraves surround all the first and second floor doors and windows, with the exception of the closet doors which are surrounded by trabeated frames. The surrounds of the doors between the first floor hall and the flanking rooms contain two-light transoms with hinged sash. Several of the pediments are missing.

A quarter-turn staircase with winders rises along the eastern wall of the first floor hall. The balustrade, which consisted of balusters with slight profiles and a walnut railing, was removed sometime before the late 1970's. The second floor hall contains a built-in storage cabinet opposite the staircase, below the front window.

The Wolf-Ruebeling House was not altered substantially before the 1940's. Changes made to the property during or prior to the 1940's were of a reversible nature, including the rear addition (demolished in August 1981), a gable roofed front porch (added between 1941 and the mid-1940's; removed before the late 1970's) and the fading coat of white paint. Non-historic changes of a more permanent nature are relatively few, constituting the exterior chimney of the northern elevation and the asphalt roofing.

The Wolf-Ruebeling House has suffered considerably from vandalism and neglect since the 1940's, however, it appears to retain sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria of evaluation.

 $^{^{}m 1}$ The house was heated originally with stoves and more recently with steam.

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emblems of prosperity and high social standing. Further, the Wolf-Ruebeling House's reference to high style residences provided additional symbolic legitimacy to Wolf's position in the community. Specifically, the symmetrical, central passageway plan and classicizing ornament of the Wolf-Ruebeling House established both a direct stylistic link to Missouri-Federal and Missouri-Greek Revival I-houses and a tacit comparison between Wolf's social standing and that of Anglo-Americans who owned substantial residences in the vicinity. The segmentally arched openings, the use of stoves instead of fireplaces and the use of few classically-derived details, however, point up the Wolf-Ruebeling House's affinities with local vernacular building traditions that acquired considerable popularity among German immigrants of commensurate and more modest means.

Wolf sold the property on March 13, 1862, to Henry August Ruebeling. Census data and Ruebeling's obituary in a local newspaper differ in regard to his place of birth; Ruebeling was born in Germany on June 23, 1838, either in Baumbach (Hanover) in Lower Saxony or in Hesse-Darmstadt. At the age of six, he immigrated to the United States with his parents. They settled near Augusta, Missouri, about thirteen miles west of Hamburg by 1847. On April 21, 1863, he married Charlotte Schneider (b. December 17, 1841; d. 1922), granddaughter of Henry Schneider, who founded Hamburg, and daughter of John Eusebius Schneider, who was a farmer and weaver of some repute. They resided in Hamburg with their three children who survived past infancy, Emma, Albert and August, until c. 1915-25.

Ruebeling was a shoemaker and merchant who advertised a trade in dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, shoes, crockery, hardware and machinery. He conducted the mercantile business out of two adjacent frame structures that fronted on Highway 94, across from his house, and operated the cobbler shop in a structure located near the highway, to the south of the house. He kept stock and chickens in a structure to the rear of the cobbler's shop. I

Hamburg was the terminus by the early 1890's for the Missouri Midland Railway, a local line. During the 1880's or 1890's, after the decline of steamboat traffic on the Missouri River, a branch of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas was completed through Hamburg and a depot, known as Miller's Station or Miller's Switch, was constructed on the tracks below Hamburg. A hotel, an express and telegraph office, a pipe factory and a grain elevator were built in the vicinity of the depot and were known collectively as the lower town or lower Hamburg. Consequently, Hamburg proper became known locally as upper Hamburg.

Hamburg remained relatively small. A 1905 atlas shows seven buildings and a depot in lower Hamburg and approximately twenty buildings grouped around a bend in the Marthasville Road to the north of the Wolf-Ruebeling House in upper Hamburg. About one half of these structures were commercial buildings, including two stores, a smith's shop, a warehouse, a post office and, on Ruebeling's property across from the house, Ruebeling Brothers' stores and a blacksmith's shop that presumably was built for Lorenz Wolf c. 1860. Three

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Conservation demolished all of the properties in Hamburg, except for the Wolf-Ruebeling House which was deemed to possess sufficient architectural historic significance to merit listing in the National Register of Historic Because the Department of Conservation regards the preservation of historic properties as beyond their constitutional purview and because there are no monies in the state historic preservation revolving fund and the Historic Preservation Fund to subsidize a project such as this, the state historic preservation office and the Department of Conservation developed a long-term lease agreement designed to preserve the house by private initiative. Pursuant to this lease agreement, the Department of Conservation would lease the house and approximately ten acres to the Department of Natural Resources through the revolving fund and, in turn, the Department of Natural Resources would sublease the property, prescribing rehabilitation according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. ment of Conservation would reimburse the sublessee for materials and a limited amount of contracted labor if the lease is broken under favorable terms. The sublessee's labor would be regarded as remuneration.

Despite recurring vandalism, stabilization measures have been and will continue to be taken until a sublessee can be found.

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Continuation sheet WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE

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- ¹Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 3-31.
- ²J.W. Schiermeier, <u>Cracker Barrel Country</u> ([Washington, Missouri: Missouri-an Publishing Co., Inc., 1980), 8.1; Charles van Ravenswaay, <u>The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture</u> (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 8.
- ³Hamburg vertical file, St. Charles County Historical Society, St. Charles, Missouri.
- ⁴J.W. Schiermeier, <u>Cracker Barrel Country</u> (<u>[Washington, Missouri:] <u>Missouri-an</u> Publishing Co., Inc., 1980), 8.1.</u>
- ⁵St. Charles County, Office of the Assessor, Records, (1857) n.p.; (1859), p. 89; (1860), p. 161; (1861), p. 204.
- ⁶St. Charles County, Recorder of Deeds, 4 May 1857, William Koenig and Anna Maria to Lorenz Wolf; St. Charles County, Recorder of Deeds, 13 March 1862, Lorenz Wolf and Maria Anna to Henry August Ruebeling; History of St. Charles County, Missouri (Chillicothe, Missouri: Elizabeth Prather Elisberry, n.d.), p. 463.
- ⁷ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, St. Charles County, Missouri, Population Schedule: 199.
- ⁸Charles van Ravenswaay, <u>The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture</u> (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 221.
- ⁹St. Charles County, Recorder of Deeds, 13 March 1862, Lorenz Wolf and Maria Anna to Henry August Ruebeling; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, St. Charles County, Missouri, Population Schedule: 3; Interview with Fay Schlueter, Defiance, Missouri, 24 September 1982; Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 448, 452.
- 10George B. Walker, comp., Walker's St. Charles Directory for 1891-92 (N.p.:
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- 11 Interview with Fay Schlueter, Defiance, Missouri, 24 September 1982.
- ¹²George B. Walker, comp., <u>Walker's St. Charles Directory for 1891-92</u> (N.p.: George B. Walker, 1891), p. 209.
- 13 Hamburg vertical file, St. Charles County Historical Society, St. Charles,

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15 Plat Book of St. Charles Co., Missouri (Des Moines, Iowa: North West Publishing Co., 1905), p. 28-29.

16 Interview with Fay Schlueter, Defiance, Missouri, 24 September 1982.

¹⁷Don K. Muschany, <u>The Rape of Hamburg and Howell (An American Tragedy)</u> (St. Louis: Don K. Muschany, 1978), p. 3.

 18 Ibid., p. 239; Interview with Sandra Staggs, St. Charles, Missouri, 17 September 1982.

¹⁹Myron Levin, "Decades as a Dump Make Dilemma of Missouri Site," <u>Kansas City</u> Star, 15 August 1982.

²⁰Don K. Muschany, <u>The Rape of Hamburg and Howell (An American Tragedy)</u> (St. Louis: Don K. Muschany, 1978), p. 239-40.

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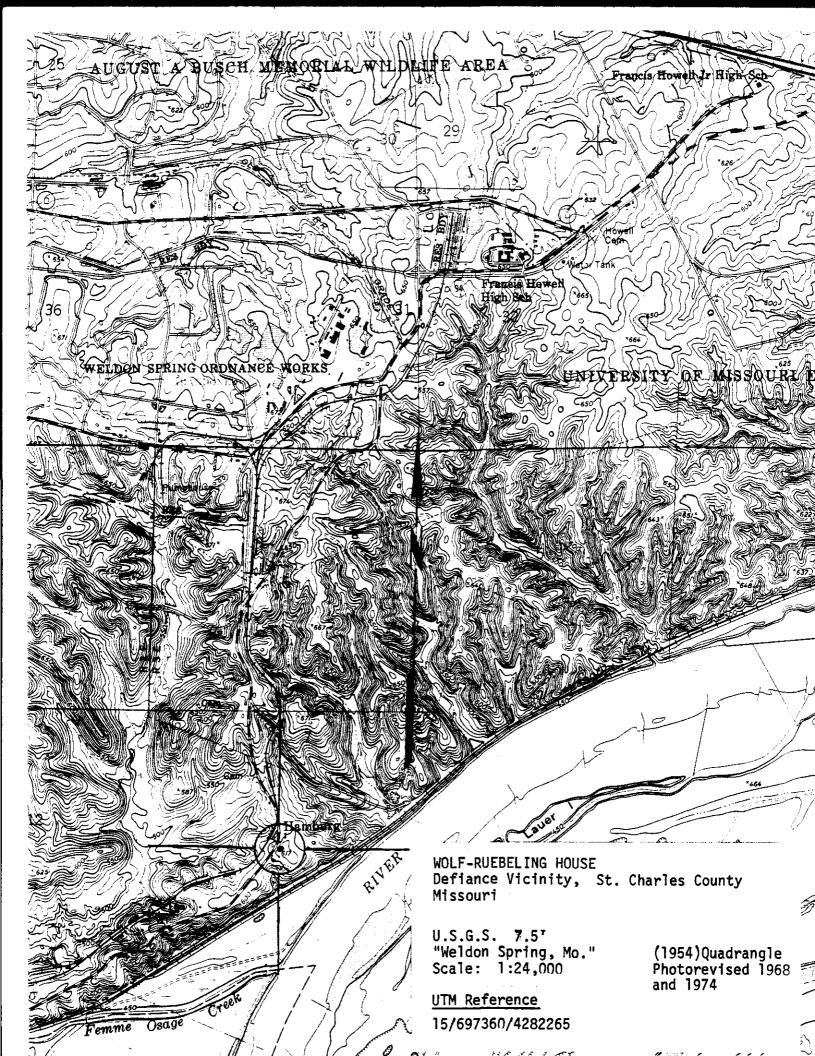
Schiermeier, J. W. <u>Cracker Barrel Country</u>. [Washington, Missouri:] <u>Missourian Publishing Co.</u>, Inc., 1980.

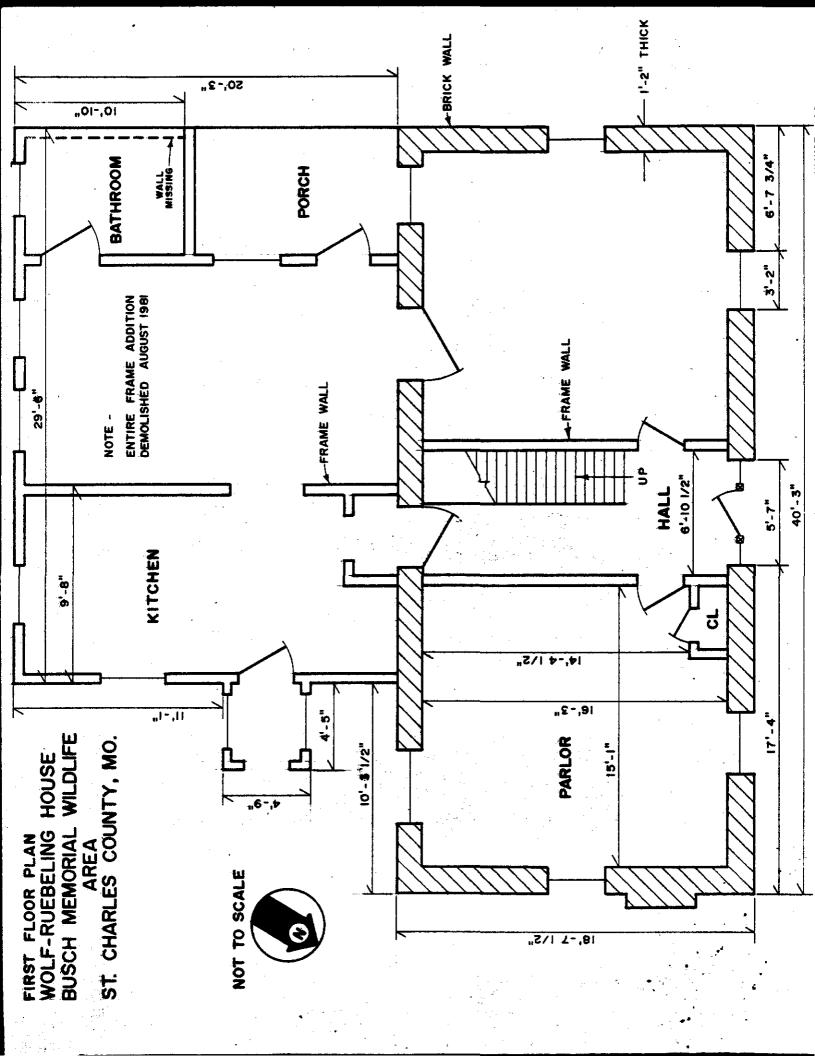
Schlueter, Fay. Defiance, Missouri. Interview, 24 September 1982.

Staggs, Sandra. St. Charles, Missouri. Interview, 17 September 1982.

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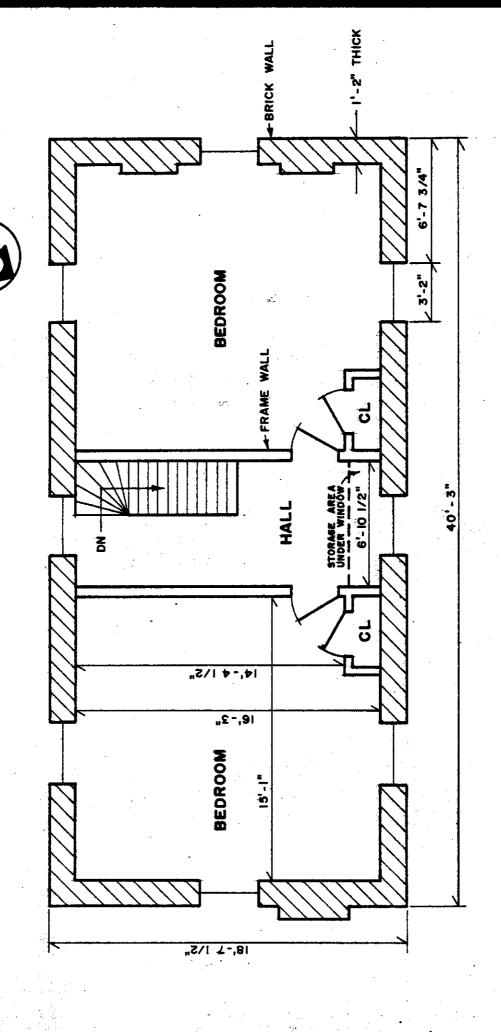
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE BUSCH MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO.

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WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

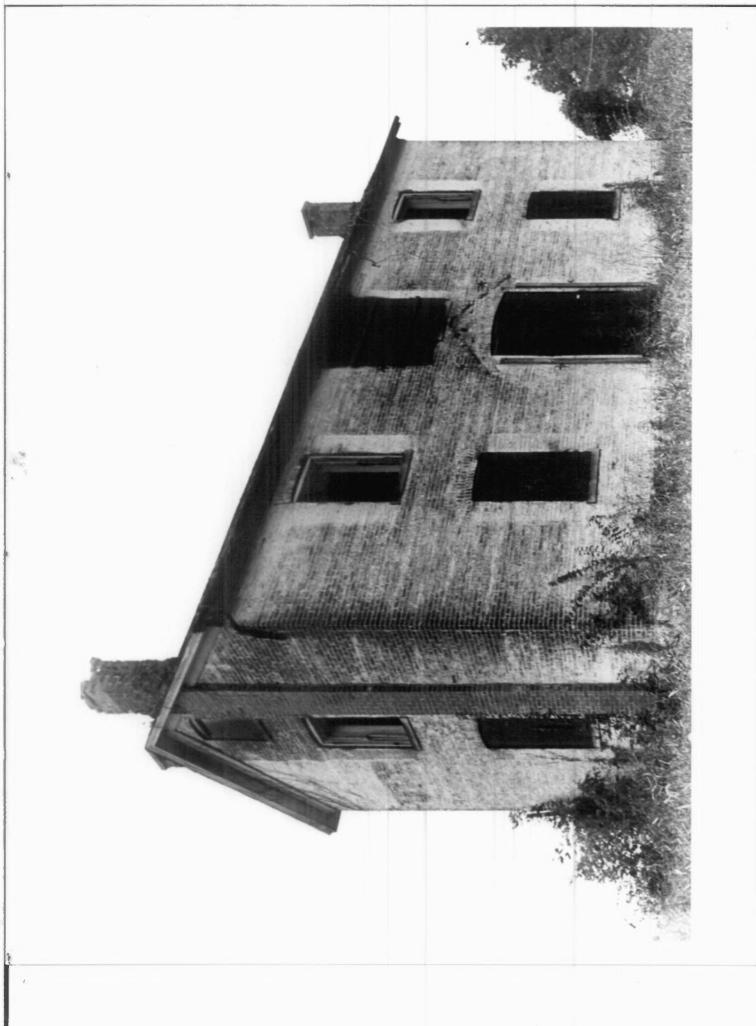
Photographer: Jill Johnson
17 September 1982
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the Wolf-Ruebeling House, looking south from Highway 94.



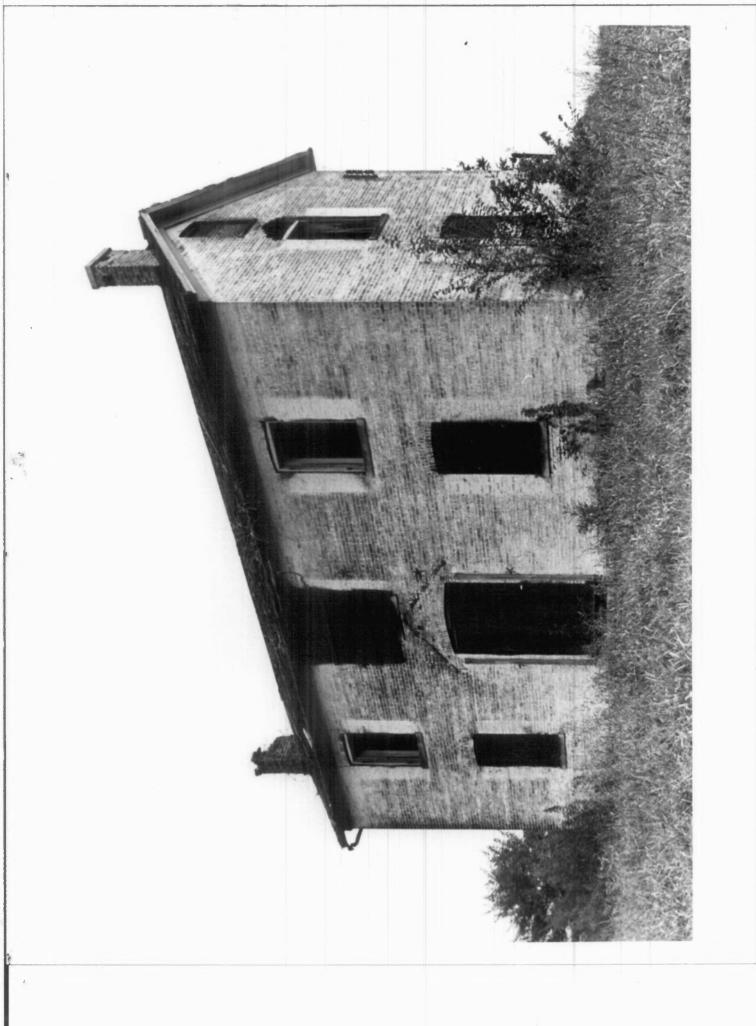
Photographer: Jill Johnson
17 September 1982
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
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View of the northwest (primary) and northeast (side) elevations, looking south.



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View of the northwest (primary) and southwest (*ide) elevations, looking east.

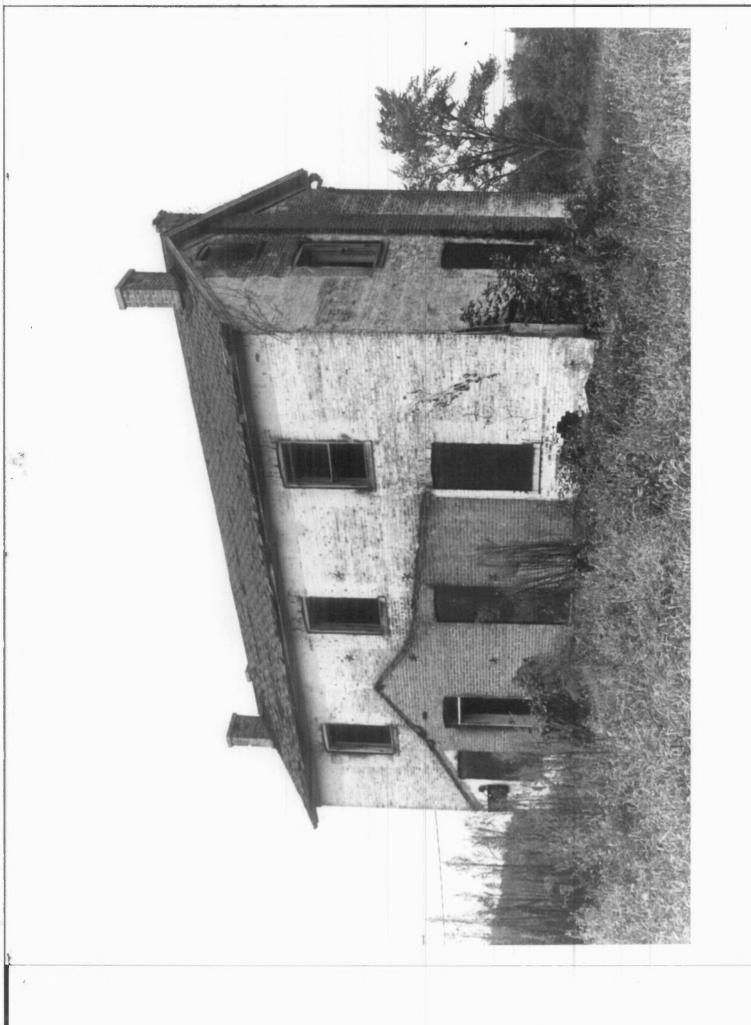


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WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

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View of the southeast (rear) and northeast (side) elevations, looking west.



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Photographer: Jill Johnson
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the interior detailing of the principal entrance, taken from the rear of the first floor hall.

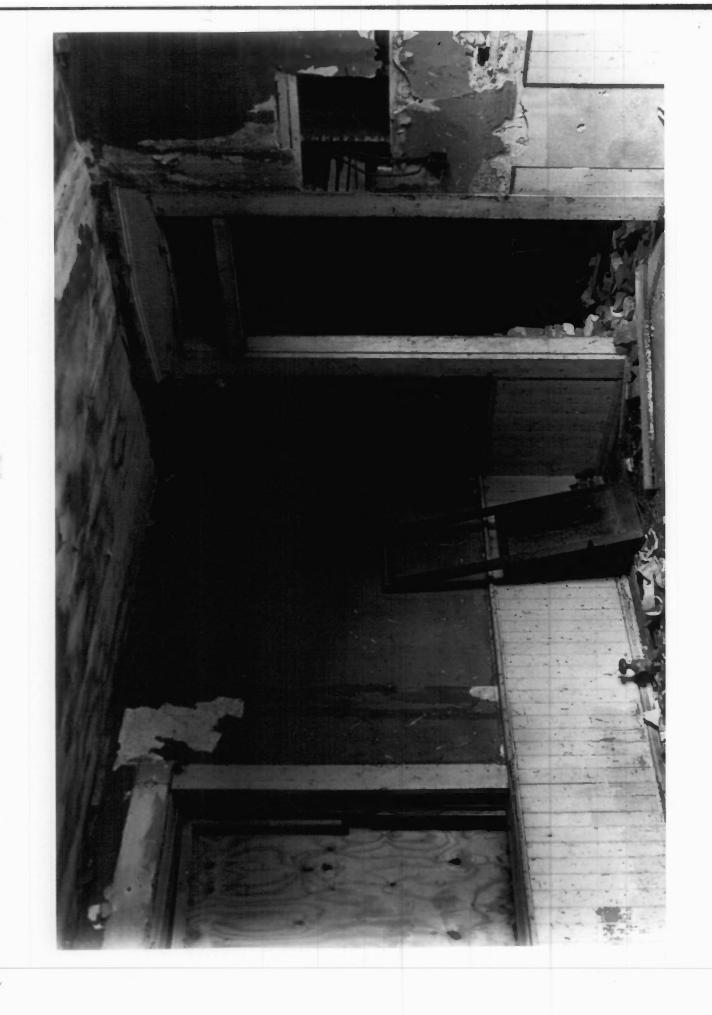
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

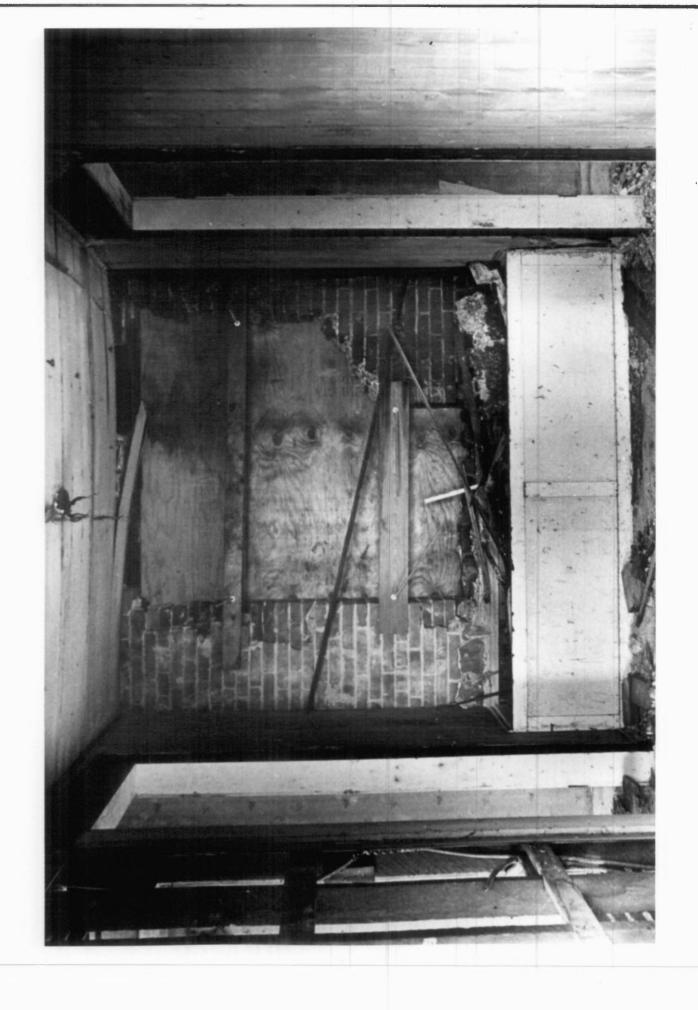
Interior view of the first floor dining room, looking toward the hall.



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17 September 1982
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of the second floor hall, looking toward the storage area below the front window.

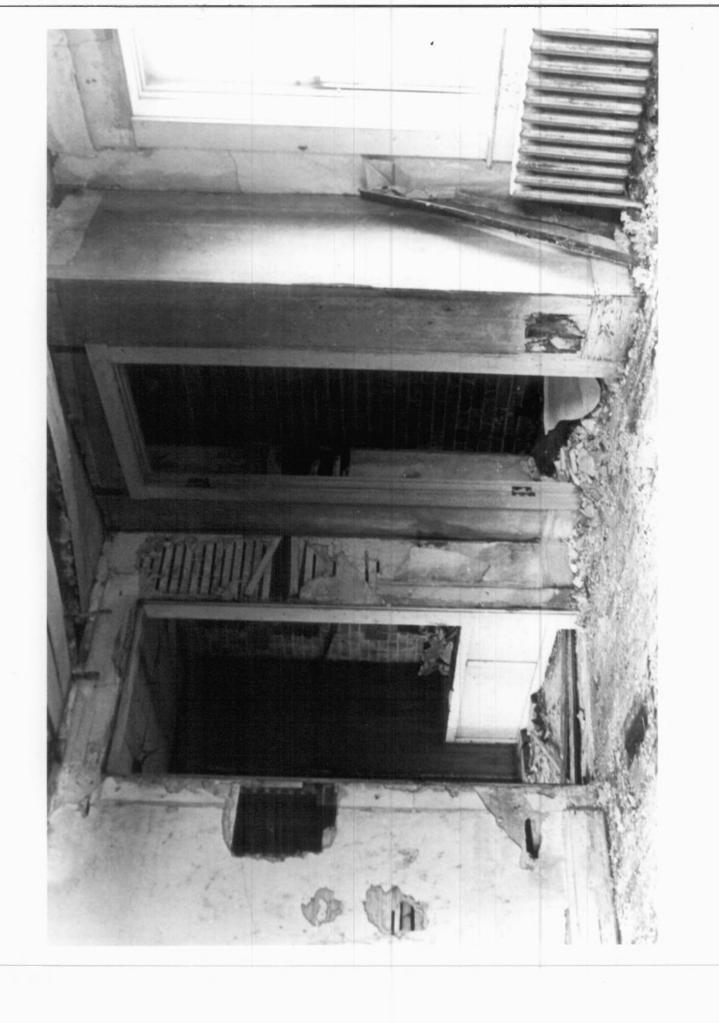


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WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

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17 September 1982
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Interior view of the northern bedroom, looking toward the hall.



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WOLF-RUEBELTNG HOUSE

Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles
County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny
Winter 1980
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
1980 view of the primary elevation, showing original window sash and entrance detailing.



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Photographer: James M. Denny
Winter 1980
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
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1980 view of the rear of the property, before demolition of the addition.



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WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny Winter 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

1980 view of the rear of the property, before demolition of the addition.



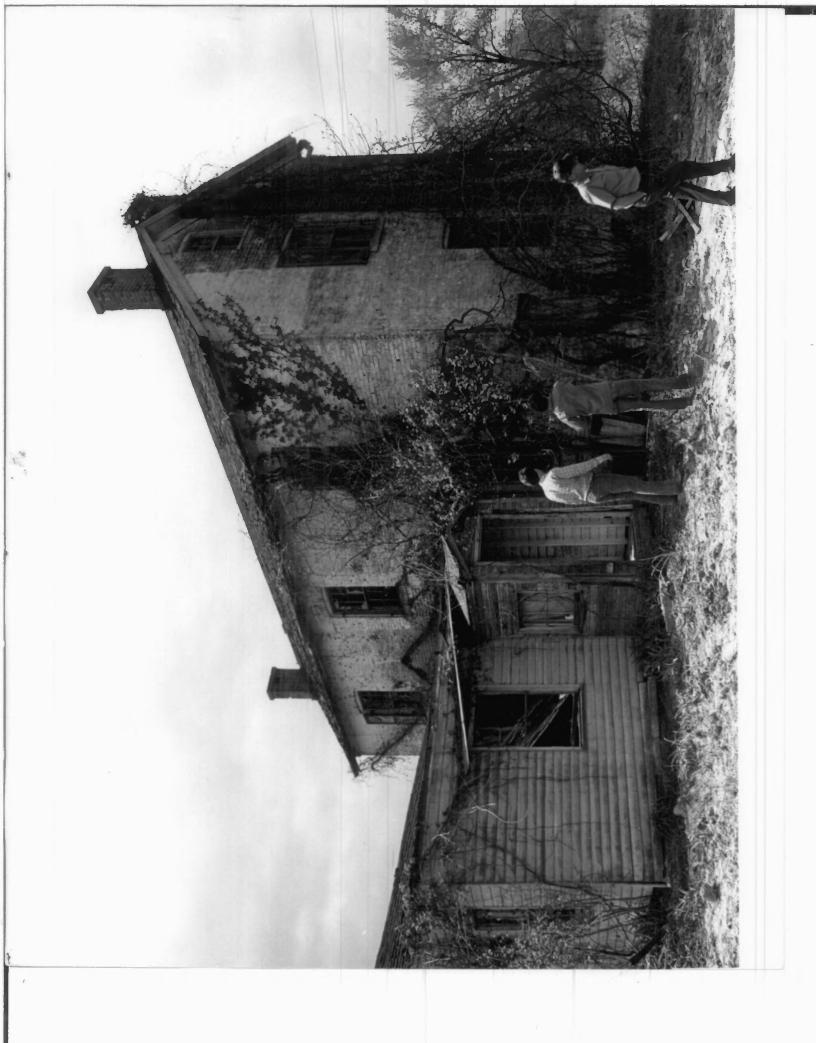
WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny Winter 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

1980 view of the rear of the property, before demolition of the addition.

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WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny Winter 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the primary entrance taken in 1980, when the original detailing was still in situ.

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Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE

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Photographer: James M. Denny
Withter 1980
Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

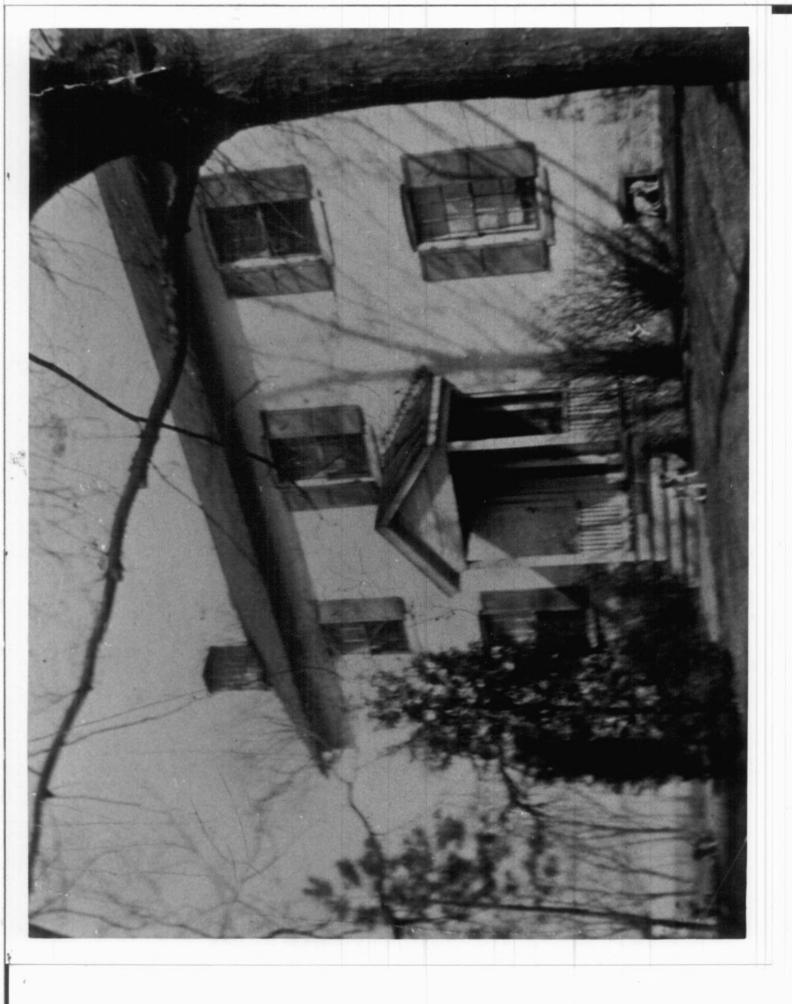
View of the primary entrance taken in 1980, when the original detailing was still in situ.



15 of 15 WOLF-RUEBELING HOUSE Defiance Vicinity, St. Charles County, Missouri

Photographer: unknown ca. 1940's-1950's

Ca. 1940's-1950's view of the primary elevation of the property.



EXTRA PHOTOS





